

497  
.F8 S8



P.3983-

WESTERN  
HISTORICAL  
CLERK

HISTORICAL SKETCH  
RELATING TO THE  
ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES AND EARLY TIMES  
OF  
FRANKLIN COUNTY;

PREPARED FOR THE

GENERAL HISTORY  
1861  
CINCINNATI  
1862  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Franklin County Pioneer Association,

AND DELIVERED BY

JOSEPH SULLIVANT, Esq.,

SATURDAY, JUNE 3d, 1871.



COLUMBUS:  
OHIO STATE JOURNAL PRINT.  
1871.

777 5250

LIBRARY OF THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20315



245/G  
- 2 47



F497  
.F8 S8

## ADDRESS.

One of the main objects of our Association is to gather up and preserve the incidents of our early settlement, and collect authentic materials for the future historian of this county.

As my contribution to so desirable an end, I now propose to give a sketch of the original boundaries of the county, and show the political divisions to which it has, from time to time, been attached, and trace it down to its present dimensions.

In doing so, I must necessarily adopt a chronological order, and even then touch but lightly, for were I to attempt the briefest account of all the events that led to the settlement of the county, or to give the most meagre detail of the many interesting facts connected with its history and progress, it would require a volume rather than the paper I have prepared for the occasion which brings us together this day; a day in which we propose to revive the memories of the past, to renew and strengthen the bonds of neighborly fellowship, and, if possible, give our children some idea of the early times, and how hardly the Pioneers won this country, which the present generation are so peacefully enjoying.

A little less than one hundred years ago, all this great western country, now divided into many populous and flourishing States, was but a howling wilderness, almost unknown and untraversed by civilized man.

The original thirteen States, the "E Pluribus Unum," were colonial dependencies of the crown of Great Britain, which, long before, had granted charters and established colonies in the new world, among the most important of which was Virginia.

With a liberality equal to the ignorance of the geography of the country, the western limits of this colony were extended to the Southern Sea! Under this broad title, Virginia claimed and subsequently exercised a sort of jurisdiction over a vast territory comprising what now constitutes the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. France also claimed large portions of the country by the right of discovery and settlement, and disputed the title of Great Britain and contended with her for supremacy on the North American continent; and by establishing her line of military posts, stretching from the Gulf of St. Lawrence west to the Mississippi, along our northern borders, she hemmed in and retarded the English settlements, and greatly harassed them by aid of the Indians, who were generally the allies of France in the long and bloody wars that ensued.

The French post at the forks of the Ohio, known as Fort DuQuesne, dominated Western Pennsylvania and Western Virginia, and was the key to the country south of Lake Erie; and we cannot wonder at the long struggle between the English and French for the possession of this important position.

In an attempt to take this post the English General Braddock suffered a most disastrous defeat, and our own Washington distinguished himself by his gallantry and good conduct on this sad occasion. The French abandoned this post in the winter of 1758-9, and soon afterward the English took possession of the ruins, and near by erected Fort Pitt, named after the great English Minister, and under the shadow and protection of Fort Pitt arose the village, now the city of Pittsburgh, and immigration and settlements began to grow rapidly in Western Pennsylvania and Virginia, notwithstanding the continued hostility of the Indians.

There are reasons for believing that even before 1750 there were white men who passed through this region. Christopher Gist, an agent of an English and Virginia land company, certainly traveled through this central region in 1750, and I have reasons for thinking that he passed over or very near the present site of Columbus.

Probably the first educated white persons who came to the State with a view of permanent residence, were those conscientious and self-denying men who, impelled by a noble philanthropy, left behind them the security and comforts of civilized life and ventured into an unbroken wilderness, and among an unknown and savage people, with the hope of rescuing them from barbarism and turning them toward Christianity.

With this object, and under the patronage of the Moravian church, of which he was a minister, David Zeisberger and others penetrated into the present State of Ohio and located themselves on the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum, and, on May 3, 1772, established their mission of Schonbrunn, and soon afterward, those of Guadenhutten, Salem and Lichtnau, in the present county of Tuscarawas.

Of the success of these Christian men, of their discouragements and privations, or of the sad and tragical fate that finally overtook them and their Indian converts, I shall not attempt any account.

Save these Moravian brethren, there were no white men in the State of Ohio, unless a few transient traders among the Indians; but that there was a population around the old French posts of Detroit, Vincennes, Kaskaskia, and other places, requiring the forms and protection of law, is evident from the fact that the House of Burgesses, of Virginia (corresponding to our House of Representatives), in 1769 established the county of Bottetourt, making the Blue Ridge its eastern and the Mississippi river its western boundary, including Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota—a pretty ample territory, it must be admitted, for one county,—and rather inconvenient we would think in these days, for the people to travel over 700 miles to their county seat, which was fixed at Fincastle, in the valley of Virginia.

But the authorities very wisely took into consideration these inconveniences, for the act establishing the county—which was named after one of the Governors of the colony of Virginia—recites, "And whereas, the people situated on the Mississippi, in the said county of Bottetourt, will be very remote from the Court House and must necessarily become a separate county as soon as their numbers are sufficient—which probably will happen in a short time. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid (House of Burgesses) that the inhabitants of that part of the said county of Bottetourt which lies on the said waters, shall be exempted from the payment of any levies to be laid by the said county court, for the purpose of building a court house and prison for said county."

During the long contest between the French and English for the possession of the great western territory, the Indians were the allies of France, and the western frontiers and border settlements of Pennsylvania and Virginia were constantly harassed and retarded by marauding parties of the savages, who marked their invasions with fire and blood.

These incursions were continued after the fall of the French power, and the murders were so frequent and the insecurity of life so great that the colony of Virginia determined to strike a vigorous blow and secure the peace and quiet of their own settlements by carrying the war into the heart of the Indian country, which was the present State of Ohio.

Accordingly an army of three thousand men was raised and equipt to operate against the Indian towns on the Scioto.

The whole was under the command of Lord Dunmore, the Governor—but the army marched in two divisions, with the intention of forming a junction before reaching the Indian towns. The Indians, with great sagacity, determined to attack, and, if possible, defeat these divisions separately. One division of the Virginia army, under the command of Col. Lewis, marched down the valley of the Kanawha towards the Ohio river.

The Indians, in pursuance of their plan, went to meet these troops and give them battle before they crossed the Ohio and penetrated further into their country.

The troops having arrived at Point Pleasant, (situated at the junction of the Great Kanawha and the Ohio,) were, with great fury, attacked by the combined forces of Indians, about sunrise on the morning of October 10th, 1774; the battle raged all day until night put an end to the conflict.

Victory declared for the disciplined forces of the white men—a victory gained at a great loss of men, and particularly of the officers of Lewis' army—and the result was equally bloody and disastrous to the Indians, who withdrew in sullen disappointment from the battlefield and retreated to their own country.

On the part of the Indians the battle

of Point Pleasant was undoubtedly the best planned and most systematically and hardly contested in the annals of Indian warfare.

Colonel Lewis continued his march, and on the 24th of October arrived at the Pickaway plains and encamped on Congo creek.

In the meanwhile the other division of the army, under Dunmore, arrived at the Ohio river below Wheeling, and building boats, descended the river to the mouth of the big Hockhocking, where they built Fort Gower; and from thence marched up the river, through the hilly and broken region of Athens, Hocking and Fairfield counties, into the present county of Pickaway, and established Camp Charlotte, on Sippo creek, not far from the Shawnee towns on the Scioto, at or near the present site of Westfall.

The two armies under Lewis and Dunmore here joined, presenting a force too great for the Indians to contend against with any hope of success. Accordingly negotiations were entered upon which soon resulted in a treaty of peace.

It was on this occasion that the celebrated speech of the Indian Chief Logan was said to have been sent in and which was soon afterward published in Thomas Jefferson's "Notes on Virginia."

In relation to the battle of the Point and the subsequent treaty, I had a most interesting and graphic account from the lips of Simon Kenton, who used to be a visitor at my father's house, in my boyhood.

On one of these visits, being fresh from the reading of Jefferson's Notes, and knowing that Kenton had taken part in the battle, and was present at the treaty, I asked him about them. He gave an interesting account of the fight, remarking that the Indians fought more like devils than men.

At the treaty, not being fully assured of the pacific intentions of the Indians, and apprehending there might be treachery, the officers were upon the alert and the troops stood to their arms, ready at any moment to resist a sudden attack. He said the approach of the Indians to the treaty ground was the most imposing sight he ever saw; over five hundred mounted warriors came riding over the prairie in single file—he said it was a long string, and he thought they would never get done coming. They were in full paint—one half the face red, the other black. I asked what this signified. He said it meant they were equally for peace or war—they were indifferent which—but this was a piece of bravado, and happily peace prevailed.

As to Logan's speech, Kenton said Logan was not present. He was not then even supposed to be on the waters of the Scioto, but somewhere in the neighborhood of Wheeling; and as to the speech, there was none of his at the treaty, and he never heard of it until months afterwards.

But I call your attention to this ancient army on the Pickaway plains, for the reason that Kenton said Dunmore,



while there, dispatched a company of men to destroy the Mingo town and encampments at the forks of the Scioto. Another account says this force was under the command of Captain Crawford, and dispatched early in November to destroy the Mingo towns up the Scioto.

I have seen, within a few years, a newspaper extract from the diary of a Virginian officer, present with Dunmore's army, stating the same fact of a force sent up the Scioto to destroy the Mingo towns at the forks of said river.

The Mingo, sympathizing with Logan, and perhaps participating in his enmity, were not represented at the treaty on the Pickaway plains, and I suppose it was for this reason an expedition was sent against them.

Now the significant fact is, that the forks of the Scioto was the junction of the Whetstone with that river, and was so known and marked on the maps of the early surveyors.

There were three Indian encampments or villages in this vicinity; one on the high bank near the old Morrill house, one and a half miles below the city, from which the party was sent out to capture my father and his party, on Deer Creek, in 1795; one at the west end of the Harrisburgh bridge, and the principal one on the river below the mouth of the Whetstone, near the Penitentiary, where formerly stood Brickle's cabin and now stands Hall & Brown's warehouse.

The location of these villages I had from John Brickle, Jeremiah Armstrong and Jonathan Alder, who had been captives among the Indians.

Alder was a visitor, in my boyhood, at my father's house and afterwards at mine, and I had many of the incidents of his life as related by himself, while afterwards, at my suggestion, were written out.

In his boyhood Alder had been captured in Virginia by a marauding party of Indians, was brought into Ohio and adopted into a tribe, and when grown up married and lived among them. He lived on Big Darby, died there and was well known to our earlier settlers, and is, no doubt, remembered by many here to-day.

In one of the personal narratives to which I have alluded, he told me he had heard from the older men of this tribe that, in the fall of 1774, when all the male Indians of the upper village, except a few old men, had gone on their first fall hunt, one day about noon, the village was surprised by the sudden appearance of a body of armed white men, who immediately commenced firing upon all they could see. Great consternation and panic ensued, and the inhabitants fled in every direction. One Indian woman seized her child, of five or six years of age, and rushed down the bank of the river and across to the wooded island opposite, when she was shot down at the farther bank. The child was unhurt amid the shower of balls and escaped into the thicket and hid in a large hollow sycamore standing

near the middle of the island, where the child was found alive two days afterwards, when the warriors of the tribe returned, having been summoned back to the scene of disaster by runners sent for the purpose. This wooded and shady island was a favorite place for us boys when we went swimming and fishing, especially when we were lucky enough to hook Johnny Brickle's canoe; and I have no doubt the huge sycamore is well remembered by many besides myself.

This interesting incident connects our county directly with the old colonial times.

The next year after Dunmore's expedition to the Pickaway plains, the thirteen colonies revolted from the government of Great Britain.

The Declaration of Independence and the war of the revolution followed soon after, and, although the Indian depredations continued against western Virginia and Pennsylvania and other frontier settlements, it was impossible for the government to give much attention or protection to the western country.

Immigration from 1775 to 1785, was mostly confined to Kentucky and Tennessee, and their population continued to increase notwithstanding the war, and of course, much more rapidly after peace with Great Britain.

In 1778 the Virginia House of Burgesses decreed that the citizens of Virginia who are already settled, or may hereafter settle, on the western side of the Ohio, shall be included in a distinct county, which shall be called Illinois county.

I believe the county seat was fixed at Kaskaskia, Illinois. Ohio formed but a small part of this great county. There were, as yet, no white inhabitants in the State, except the Moravians already mentioned, and a few traders among the Indians.

In order to cement and strengthen the then feeble confederation of the States, Virginia generously ceded to the general government on March 1, 1784, all her rights and claims northwest of the Ohio, reserving only a certain body of land to satisfy and reward her own brave and patriotic citizens who had fought in the war for independence.

This body of land was bounded on the south by the Ohio river, on the east by the Scioto, on the west by the Little Miami, and on the north by a line uniting the head waters of these two streams.

The officers and soldiers of Virginia were empowered to appoint a surveyor general and open a land office, and they accordingly selected Colonel Richard C. Anderson, an officer of the revolution, who proceeded to the falls of the Ohio and opened his office on the present site of Louisville, Kentucky.

The lands in the Virginia Military District of Ohio, were thrown open for entry in 1787, to satisfy the claims of the officers and soldiers, and soon afterwards the hardy and adventurous deputy surveyors, of whom my father, Lucas Sullivant, was one, entered upon their

perilous work betwixt the Scioto and Miami.

This munificent and magnanimous gift of Virginia of an immense body of lands, equal in advantages and fertility to any on the globe, and of a territory sufficient for an empire, was accepted by the United States government in 1787, and by the famous ordinances of that year, all of the territory northwest of the Ohio was forever secured and consecrated to freedom. In all this vast region slavery and involuntary servitude, except for crime, was forever prohibited. The wisdom of this act, securing so great an area for the full exercise and development of all the powers and faculties of the white man, when dependent on his own exertions, is well exemplified in the fact that Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, in the race of progress and production of wealth, have outstripped the generous mother who gave them birth.

Having accepted this great grant from Virginia, the Congress of the United States took steps to organize civil government within it and established the North Western Territory, and General Arthur St. Clair, a distinguished officer of the revolution, was appointed Governor thereof, in October, 1787.

Many of the officers and soldiers of the war for independence, after so many years of arduous service, found themselves at its close in an impoverished condition, and turned their attention to the west as a field offering the best opportunity for retrieving their broken fortunes on the new and fertile lands there being offered for settlement. But as these lands could be had from the Government only in large bodies, various companies were formed for this purpose. Among others, the Ohio Land Company obtained, by purchase, a grant of a million of acres upon the Ohio and Muskingum, and in 1787 a colony left Massachusetts to settle on these lands.

This company was under the direction of General Rufus Putnam, and as they reached the Ohio river at so late a period it was not deemed prudent to proceed further; they encamped for the winter, and having built boats they next spring descended the river, and, on April 13th, 1788, landed near Fort Harmar, which had been erected a short time before. They proceeded to erect block houses and stockades and laid out the town of Marietta.

John Cleves Symmes and others, of New Jersey, also obtained by purchase a large body of land on the Ohio, between the Big and Little Miami, and in the fall of 1788 settlements also commenced on his purchase at Cincinnati, Columbia and Symmes, or North Bend; but the small military detachment which had been sent out for the protection of the infant settlements on the Miami, having soon afterward established their headquarters at Fort Washington, Cincinnati grew up around it and soon took the lead of all the settlements in that region.

Gov. St. Clair arrived at Marietta and

by proclamation of July 27, 1788, erected the county of Washington, and fixed the county seat at Marietta, and defined the boundaries of this first county, as follows: South by the Ohio river, east by Pennsylvania and Virginia, north by Lake Erie, west commencing at the mouth of the Cuyahoga river, thence up the stream, over the portage, to the Tuscarawas, and down it to Fort Laurens, (near the present town of Bolivar, Tuscarawas county,) thence west to portage of Miami, thence to the head of the Scioto, and down that stream to its mouth, to include the whole eastern half of the State, and eastern half of Franklin county.

January, 2, 1790, Gov. St. Clair proclaimed Hamilton county, with county seat at Cincinnati.

This county, the second one erected within the limits of Ohio, was bounded south by the Ohio river, east by the Little Miami, on the west by the Big Miami, and on the north by a line due east from the Standing-stone Fork of said river to the Little Miami.

About the same time, the country west of Hamilton county was divided and made into the county of St. Clair, with Kaskaskia, Illinois, for its county seat; and the county of Knox, with its seat of justice at Vincennes, Indiana. These counties, with a part of Wayne, subsequently formed the Territory of Indiana.

The eight years succeeding the settlement at Marietta and in the Miami Valley, were signalized by great activity and hostility of the Indians against the settlers in the Territory, and also in Kentucky, and although the settlers had erected block-houses and stockades for safety, and protection, there were always Indians lurking about to pick off stragglers or the unwary, and many whites were killed or captured, and formal and frequent attacks were made upon the stations and sieges undertaken by large and formidable bodies of savages. The insecurity of life was so great, and the difficulties and obstacles to settlement so many, and the aid and protection from the Government so little and so tardy, that there was great danger of the total withdrawal of the white settlers and abandonment of the whole territory.

I cannot better illustrate the condition of the country, at this time, than by quoting from Judge Burnet's Notes on the New Territory.

When speaking of the great activity and incessant attacks of the Indians, he says: "These frequent predatory movements of the savages, following in such rapid succession, produced universal alarm throughout the country; and the settlers began to think they would be compelled to abandon it. They had given up all the conveniences and comforts of civilized life, to which they had been accustomed, which, in their opinion, was an ample consideration for any and every advantage, anticipated from their change of location. But when, in addition to this, life was in perpetual



danger, there could be no motive inducing them to continue in such a state of imminent exposure. Men of influence and reflection, in every part of the frontier country, saw and felt that vigorous and immediate measures were necessary to save the American settlements from being deserted by their inhabitants, or broken up and laid waste by the savages.

"It would be a tedious undertaking, if it were practicable, to enumerate or detail the hostile movements of the Indians and their numberless depredations. During all this time small parties were constantly lurking in the neighborhood of the white settlements and stations, watching for opportunities to plunder and murder. They came frequently into the villages by night and carried off horses and other property undiscovered. The depredations were so frequent that the inhabitants were constantly on the alert, and found it necessary to keep up a guard, when clearing and cultivating their grounds. It was not safe to venture into the woods unarmed, and even at Cincinnati, in sight of Fort Washington, it was found prudent to attend church on the Sabbath, armed and prepared to repel an attack." And all this was true of Marietta, Manchester and other settlements.

Under these circumstances several expeditions were fitted out to operate against the Indians on the Scioto, Miami and Wabash, with varying success, but the murders and attacks of the Indians continuing and the settlers clamoring for the protection so strangely neglected by the Government, it was at length determined to send out a force under General Wayne against the Indians, and he left Fort Washington, in Hamilton county, in the latter part of September, 1790, with about 1500 men, mostly militia from Pennsylvania and Kentucky, with a few regulars, or disciplined soldiers.

Harmar's campaign was an unsuccessful and unsatisfactory one, and he returned to Fort Washington with his army broken and demoralized.

In 1791, two expeditions, one under Scott, of Kentucky, the other under command of Colonel Wilkinson, were sent against the Eel River and Wabash Indians, and destroyed their villages and growing crops. The Government, in the meanwhile, had determined to strike an effectual blow and secure peace and safety for the harassed settlers, and for this purpose an army of 3000 men was organized and placed under the command of Governor St. Clair. On the 17th of September, the troops, to the number of 3300, left Ludlow's Station for the Indian towns, proceeding slowly and building forts on the way. Having early in November reached the vicinity of the Indians, he was attacked early on the morning of November 4th; a desperate battle ensued, but St. Clair's forces were compelled to retreat, having suffered a loss of more than half of the officers and 875 men.

This disastrous defeat cast a terrible gloom over the feeble and struggling settlements.

The expeditions against the Indians and the destruction of their towns and provisions, greatly exasperated them, and the unfortunate issue of the campaigns under Harmar and St. Clair greatly emboldened them, and they were more troublesome than ever.

The Government, now thoroughly aroused to the exigencies of the occasion, empowered Gen. Anthony Wayne to raise an army, which he was to command and which should be adequate to the occasion.

It would be interesting to follow in detail the operations of this brave officer, but our time forbids, and we must content ourselves by saying they were crowned with success, and productive of the most important results, and we can only give a very brief outline.

General Wayne was appointed to the chief command, and he proceeded to Pittsburg in the summer of 1792, and spent the time until the next spring in drilling and disciplining his troops; in April they descended the Ohio to Fort Washington, and employed the time in collecting supplies and making roads.

He marched in October; in December erected Fort Greenville, (now Greenville, in Darke county,) and went into winter quarters; and a detachment of his army built Fort Recovery and garrisoned it, on St. Clair's battle ground.

In the meanwhile, negotiations were opened with the Indians to secure peace and establish boundaries. This consumed several months.

He continued his preparations and maintained a defensive and offensive position in the Indian country, and on June 30th was attacked by a large Indian force, under Little Turtle, chief of the Miamis; they fought all day and part of the next, when the Indians were defeated.

Reinforced in July with several hundred mounted Kentucky troops, under the command of General Scott, he moved on the 28th with about 3000 men, and on the 8th of August, 1794, he arrived at the Auglaize and Maumee, in the Indian country, where he built Fort Defiance, and soon afterwards moved on near to the rapids of Maumee, where was fought the decisive battle of the Fallen Timbers, breaking forever the Indian power in the Northwest.

Negotiations and a treaty of peace followed, and the celebrated Greenville treaty truce was agreed upon at Gen. Wayne's headquarters at Greenville, now in Darke county. And August 3d, 1795, the Wyandots, Potawatomies, Miamis, Delawares and Shawnees, of Ohio, and other Northwestern tribes, agreed to deliver up all captives and to bury the hatchet and keep peace forever.

The time intervening from the settlement at Marietta had been a state of war greatly retarding and embarrassing the settlement of the country, but now peace being secured, immigration began to increase steadily, and September, 1796; Wayne county, which was the fifth, was established, including the northern half of our present State, Northern Indiana,

and all of Michigan, with the county seat at Detroit.

In 1796-8 the territory was rapidly filling with immigrants, and new settlements were begun in many places. And in 1797-8 settlements were made at Franklinton, on Alum creek, and on Darby, in this county.

Adams county was proclaimed July 10th, 1797, with the county seat at Manchester, a village on the Ohio, established by Nathaniel Massie in 1790. This county extended across the entire State, from the Ohio to the Indian boundary line on the north, and including our territory, we, of course, fell under the jurisdiction of Adams county.

Each year the settlers pushed further into the wilderness, and August 20th, 1798, Ross county was proclaimed, with the seat of justice at Chillicothe, which had been laid out in the summer of 1796, and we now fell within the territory constituting Ross county (named after James Ross of Pittsburg.)

It having been ascertained in 1798 that the territory contained five thousand white male inhabitants, and was therefore entitled to enter upon the second grade of territorial government, according to the ordinance of 1787, the Governor, St. Clair, issued his proclamation calling upon the people to elect Representatives to a General Assembly. This was done, and the members elect met in convention at Cincinnati, February 4th, 1799, and nominated ten persons for a Legislative Council, of whom five were to be appointed by the President of the United States. This appointment was made and both branches of this first Legislature met at Cincinnati, September 16th, 1799, and having organized, proceeded to the transaction of much important business and the enactment of laws made necessary by the change from a dependent condition upon the will of the Governor and his Judges, to one of greater freedom and independence.

At this session the Legislature elected General William Henry Harrison a delegate to represent the territory in Congress. This was in October, and immediately thereafter he proceeded to Philadelphia, where Congress was sitting, and entered upon his duties. He retained this place but a short time, for during this session Congress erected the territory of Indiana, of which Harrison was made the Governor.

The question of forming a state government was agitated in 1802, and was favored by the people, and petitions were prepared and forwarded to Congress, asking for permission, which was granted April 30, 1802; and in the fall delegates were elected to a convention and empowered to form a constitution. They met in Chillicothe on the first Monday of November, and after a short session formed a constitution satisfactory, at least, to themselves; for it is a remarkable fact that this instrument was never submitted to or adopted by any vote of the people. It was acquiesced in, however, and the State grew and flourished for nearly fifty years under it.

The Legislature, elected under the constitution, met in Chillicothe, March 1, 1803, and Ohio took her place in the Union with Edward Tiffin as Governor; and thus ended our territorial connection.

Franklin county was organized April 30, 1803, at the first session of the State Legislature, with boundaries: Beginning on the western boundary of the 20th range of townships east of the Scioto river, at the corner of sections 24 and 25, in the 9th township of the 21st range, surveyed by John Mathews; thence west until it intersects the eastern boundary line of Greene county; thence north with said line until it intersects the State line; thence easterly with said line to the northwest corner of Fairfield; thence with the western boundary of Fairfield to the place of beginning; including a part of the present Pickaway, Madison, Clarke, Champaign, Union, Logan, Delaware and Marion counties. But the original boundaries of this county will be better understood by the aid of the large diagram map I have prepared for this occasion. \*

In the early years the Indian troubles greatly retarded the settlement of the Northwest territory, but besides this various other causes were in operation, chief among which was the vicious method adopted for the sale and disposition of the lands acquired by the munificent grant of Virginia, by which the general government obtained title to all the Northwest territory.

All east of the Scioto and between the Big and Little Miamis the lands were open to purchase only in immense bodies, of which only companies of wealth could avail themselves, and in this way Cutler and others in Massachusetts formed the Ohio Land Company, and obtained by purchase a million of acres on the Ohio and Muskingum, which were first settled by the colony under the lead of Putnam.

So also John Cleves Symmes and others obtained in the same way a large grant betwixt the Big and Little Miamis.

In the Virginia Military District, which included the western half of our county, the land had been surveyed into large tracts and was in the hands of large land holders and non-residents, which for a long time prevented rapid settlement of the county on the west side of the Scioto; a difficulty from which that district has not recovered in seventy years, for it is not yet equal in development to the eastern half of the county, where the lands were subdivided and sold in smaller tracts.

Previous to 1800 it was impossible for men of moderate means to buy a home in the territory, for the smallest body of land offered for sale by the government was one section, or six hundred and forty acres; but in this year a half section, or three hundred and twenty acres, could be purchased, and at the land offices in Cincinnati, Marietta, Steubenville and other places the lands were rapidly bought up; and subsequently, when a quarter section, one hundred and eighty

\*A large map was exhibited.



acres, could be had for two dollars an acre on five years credit, the county began to settle with great rapidity, for it enabled men to become freeholders and cultivators of their own lands, who had hitherto been lease-holders and tenants, working for the benefit of others.

At first our roads were mere traces through the woods, and long afterward were of the poorest description, without bridges, and notwithstanding the corduroys, were almost impassable during winter, and I remember that wagons were stalled by the mud betwixt Franklinton and Columbus, and that they remained until they were dried out by the spring sun and winds.

Salt, nails, iron, hard and hollow ware were brought from Pittsburg on pack-horses, and as late as 1828, the chief mode of transporting our goods or our products was by the great Conestoga wagons, with their four and six horse bell teams.

There was scarcely any demand or market for our produce, which had to be floated off down the river by means of Orleans boats, as they were called, after the place where they went for a market.

There was but little use for corn, even to feed cattle and hogs, for the cattle found subsistence in the abundant range, and hogs lived all winter in the woods and fattened on the mast of hickory nuts, acorns and beechnuts, and in 1825, 1000 bushels of corn would have overstocked and glutted the market of Columbus, where no purchaser could be found to pay cash for such an immense quantity.

At an earlier period there were few or no mills, and the early settlers had to go to Dyer's mill on Little Darby—Sells' at Dublin, or down to Kinnikinick in Ross county, and therefore handmills, graters and hominy mortars were brought into frequent requisition to furnish the material for bread.

Salt was scarce and high—\$3 to \$5 per bushel—as it was brought from Pittsburg and Wheeling on pack horses. Iron was also scarce and high, and the nails used in the first buildings in Franklinton were hammered out by hand.

There were few or no American cottons, and English Manchester long-cloths, and India muslins and Calicuts, and printed goods supplied our stores, and it took a good two horse load of corn to buy five yards of India calico, which was considered a full dress pattern, or enough of fine linen to make a shirt. But fortunately a broad-cloth coat or a silk or satin dress was considered both fashionable and genteel after ten years' wear.

Blankets and coarse woollens were also dear, and after the first stock of clothing was exhausted the settlers fell back upon the coarse flax linen, spun and woven by the industrious pioneer mothers, who, when wool was afterwards to be had, made blankets and coverlets and the linsey woolsey for themselves and family. As for the men, buckskin hunting shirt and breeches were not uncommon, and were warm and comfortable, except when they were wet.

There are persons here to-day who can remember when there was not a sheep in Franklin county.

Even early in the territorial times there were enactments for encouraging the introduction of sheep, by a bounty laid upon the scalps of wolves and panthers. These laws were adopted and amended by the State Legislature, and I suppose that, in the first fifty years from the settlement of the State, several thousand dollars were paid for those killed within the borders of Franklin county.

The surface of the county, with a few exceptions, was covered by heavy forests, requiring prodigious labor to open and cultivate a farm; but notwithstanding the necessity for constant physical labor and great attention to material things, the early settlers were not unmindful of their mental and moral improvement, and to supply their wants in these particulars, schools, churches and newspapers were established.

In February, 1806, the First Presbyterian Church, and, I believe, the first church of any kind in the county, was organized in Franklinton, with James Hoge as pastor. Of this church my mother was a member, and Robert Culbertson and William Read elders. Lucas Sullivant, William Domigan, John Dill, Joseph Hunter and Joseph Dickson were trustees. Of members, Elders, Trustees and Pastor, none are now living. Of the early members of this congregation, the Reads, Nelsons, Shaws, Mooberys, Taylors, Longs, Livingstons, Pughs, and others, east of the Scioto, traveled on horseback along the bridle paths, over the present site of Columbus, to reach the old church in Franklinton.

The first regularly incorporated church was that of St. John's, in Worthington, and our Methodist brethren were not backward in the good work, for they established preaching stations at an early day.

Of newspapers, the first in the county was established by Joel Buttle, in 1811, at the town of Worthington; and this paper, the Western Intelligencer, is the progenitor, by lineal ascent, of the present Ohio State Journal. The other was the Freeman's Chronicle, edited and published by James B. Gardiner, in Franklinton, June, 1812. Of these early newspapers, I have here specimen copies.

At the organization of the State, no place was fixed as the seat of government, and for several years the Legislature met in different towns; but early in the year 1812, after a hard contest with other localities, it was determined that the seat of government should be fixed at the high bank of the Scioto river, opposite the town of Franklinton.

This result was accomplished by the good management, within the Legislature, of our able Senator, Gen. Joseph Foos, assisted outside by a strong lobby of the friends of Starling, Kerr, McLaughlin and Johnson, the proprietors; but, above all, by the liberal donations of Lucas Sullivant, and his guarantee of other subscriptions, to a large



amount, and which he afterward had to pay.

The State House having been completed, the legislators met in Columbus for the first time in the winter of 1816.

Upon the same day in June, 1812, on which the town lots of Columbus were offered for sale, war was declared against Great Britain.

The Ohio troops were placed under the command of General Hull, marched to Detroit and soon afterward surrendered to the British. This unlooked for result spread a gloom over the whole State, and indeed over the whole country. A season of great distress and alarm followed; for our county was now open to an irruption of the bloody savages.

The citizens of Franklinton and of the county responded promptly, and more than once marched to the northern border, and at a time when their services were most needed to attend to the growing crops. The county troops were several times marched to Sandusky and assisted in repelling attacks and raising the siege of Fort Meigs. The Franklin County Dragoons, under the command of the gallant Captain Joseph Vance, distinguished themselves.

For the first year and a half the war was carried on in a very feeble and vacillating manner, and the people of this county were harassed and interfered with in all their operations, by the frequent and unnecessary calls for troops upon very trivial occasions. The war deranged the business of the country, which was still more embarrassed by the great issue of paper money by the banks of the State, and this currency soon became depreciated, and finally much of it utterly worthless.

Much of the land east of the Scioto had been bought on credit. These payments were every day becoming due, and the Government importunate and exacting. Many of the occupants had purchased with the hope of being able to make enough off their farms to meet these deferred payments; but there was little or no demand for their produce, and no way of getting it to market. It must be admitted the county was sickly and the agues and fevers of those days were no light matters. Under these circumstances no wonder that many became discouraged and surrendered their possessions after years of unrequited toil and labor.

The same state of affairs existed in other parts of the State, as respects the Congress lands, and so great was the indebtedness of the purchasers that the collection seemed likely to bankrupt the State, and Congress remitted this indebtedness, I believe, to the amount of fifteen or twenty millions.

From 1816 to 1826, was a period of great depression, from which time the business of the country began to revive, and soon after the completion of the canals Franklin county entered upon a career of prosperity that has never been checked.

From my brief and chronological presentation, it will be perceived that the first county of the Northwest Territory,

established within the present limits of the State, was Washington county, which included all of our county east of the Scioto. The second county was Hamilton, lying betwixt the two Miamis, with the Little Miami for its eastern boundary. The third county was Wayne, which included a large part of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, all of Michigan and a part of Minnesota, with its county seat at Detroit. Now the southern line of Wayne county was a line drawn west from Fort Laurens and continued until it intersected the east line of Hamilton county, which is here declared to be "a due north line from the lower Shawnee towns upon the Scioto river." It is evident, therefore, from this, that, betwixt the time of establishing Hamilton county, in 1790, and that of Wayne, in 1796, the eastern boundary of Hamilton had been greatly extended. This is also confirmed, if we refer to the alteration in the western boundary of Adams county in 1798.

Now, whether we assume the lower Shawnee towns on the Scioto at the mouth of the river, to be intended, or those in the vicinity of Westfall, in Pickaway county, the due north line forming the eastern boundary of Hamilton would include the greater part of the present Franklin county, and must have passed just east of the spot where we are now assembled. So that it will be seen that our territory has been attached to seven distinct political divisions in succession, as follows: Bottetourt, Illinois, Washington, Hamilton, Adams, Ross and Franklin—with eight different county seats—Fincastle, Virginia, Kaskaskia Illinois Marietta, Cincinnati, Manchester, on the Ohio, Chillicothe, Franklinton, and Columbus.

Being a native of the county I have witnessed much of its changes and progress, and would be glad to enter into details of many interesting events, and make references, by name, to the early settlers of the county; but this must now be postponed to another occasion, for the limited time allotted to me precludes any other than the most general treatment of my subject.

But some of the incidents and names of the earliest settlers I hope to set forth in a biographical sketch which I am preparing, of a leading pioneer of this county, my father, Lucas Sullivan, who was surveying on the west side of the river in an early day, and who laid out the town of Franklinton and formed the first settlement in the county, in 1797.

It will scarcely be credited by those of this generation, that, within the lifetime of some who are here present to-day, there was a time when the seemingly interminable forest stretched away from the summits of the Alleghanies, league after league toward the setting sun—that St. Louis was an assemblage of three or four hundred traders in furs and peltries. The site of Chicago was a wet prairie, and Louisville was only a small village at the falls of the Ohio, and the place of our beautiful Queen City of the Ohio was a hamlet of log

huts, under the shadow and protection of the stockades and blockhouses of Fort Washington; and all beyond the Mississippi was a terra incognita.

Throughout the vast region comprising the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the only white men were clustered around the sites of the old trading stations and military posts, and the whole white population of the State probably did not more than equal that of one of the wards of our city. And here the wild beasts of the forest and the savage Indians roamed at will. The fertile valley of the Scioto was a favorite place of the Shawnees, where the natural prairies furnished grass and food for their ponies in winter.

The flat betwixt Columbus and Franklinton, and the field on the right as you go to Green Lawn, had been cultivated by the Indian women from time immemorial; for it is to be remembered that the noble savage man scorned manual labor and reserved his energies for the chase and the pastime of war. From these fertile spots, where bounteous nature yielded abundant products with little or no labor, they gathered the luscious green corn in its season, and celebrating the annual corn dance according to their own manner made offerings and did homage to the Great Spirit for this precious gift to His red children.

It is but eighty-three years since the settlement of this State began, on the banks of the Ohio, at Marietta, and subsequently in many places the hardy pioneers won their farms from rugged nature and a savage foe; literally with the ax in one hand and the rifle in the other. But happily, many have lived through the privations and difficulties of frontier life, and witnessed the transformation of the wilderness into fruitful and smiling fields, and seen the wigwam of the savage give place to secure and happy homes, the abodes of civilization and refinement.

In my childhood the howl of the wolf was a frequent lullaby, and the fear of Indian massacre disturbed my mother, as it did many another mother in the land. But the wild war-whoop of the bloody savage no longer breaks upon the startled ear and disturbs the slumber of the lonely settler.

The efforts of King Philip and Powhattan on the Atlantic waters, and the grand and statesmanlike conceptions of Pontiac and of Tecumseh in the west, to interpose an armed and active Indian confederation to stay the advance of the white man, have all proved vain. So, also, the hopes of Zelsberger and his self-denying brethren, with the king and counselor of the Delawares, as to the founding of a great christian republic among the Indians, which was to gather into one united and consolidated nation all the scattered and wandering tribes of the west, and so preserve them as a distinct and peculiar people, "have vanished like the baseless fabric of a dream."

Of all the tribes that then inhabited the State none are left; not a single council fire remains in all this region; one by

one they waned before the presence of the white man, and the nations that once surrounded them have utterly perished, or the feeble remnants retired before the ever advancing and remorseless tread of our own race.

Fifty years ago, when the primeval forest still covered the greater part of the State of Ohio, it required no little courage and energy to undertake the making of a farm in Franklin county.

The present residents of our towns and city, seeing only the beautiful country and highly cultivated fields of their immediate vicinity, and enjoying the various and abundant products of these same fields, have little idea of the primitive life and the circumstances which surrounded the early settlers, or that it has taken the self denial, the industry and incessant toil of over two generations to bring the face of the country into its present inviting and pleasing condition.

In the early times of which I speak it was the prime object of the pioneers, with many a sturdy stroke, to slash down the grand old forests, and let the genial and vivifying rays of the sun upon a rich and virgin soil, where, in spite of roots and stumps and ever recurring sprouts and bushes, they contrived to reap sufficient crops to keep them well supplied with those great staples and comforts of pioneer life—hog and hominy. Even now we occasionally hear our farmers grumbling about dull times and the low price of produce, but are there not many here present who can remember when we had but few and imperfect roads, with but little home market and scarcely any outside the State for our products—that beeswax, ginseng and feathers were about all the articles that would pay for transportation to a distant market—that our hogs and beef cattle were driven afoot across the mountains, and after a month or six weeks exposure to wind and weather, found a limited market in Baltimore? Or the enterprising of a whole neighborhood would join together and build a flatboat or ark, and after loading it with a miscellaneous cargo of their surplus produce, would float it off to a perilous and uncertain market, which would occupy months in its accomplishment? Will they ever forget the times when cord wood, delivered in Columbus, was dull at 50 and 75 cents; hay \$3 to \$4 a ton; flour \$1 50 to \$2 per hundred; pork \$1 25 to \$1 75; when wheat was sold at 25 and 30 cents a bushel, and corn was a drug at 8 and 10 cents; oats, potatoes, butter and eggs scarcely had a market value at all; and as for the sale of a bushel of turnips, or a head of cabbage, it was an unheard of transaction.

In looking back over these early times I cannot but believe we were as happy and contented as now, with all our progress; most certainly as honest as at present, for we never heard of defalcations in office, or rings to cheat the Government out of revenue. Money was scarce and hard to get, and the taxes were often behindhand, but were honestly paid.

We seemed to be mutually dependent



and relied more on one another, and there was more neighborly helpfulness in rendering assistance, especially to the new beginners, or those weak handed; as witness the house raisings, social chopping parties and log-rollings, huskings and quiltings. There was certainly much genuine hospitality, for although the cabins had puncheon floors and clap-board roofs, the latch string was always out, and no man ever refused or was afraid or ashamed to share his humble fare with a neighbor or a stranger.

The women were more accustomed to spin flax and wool than to reel off street yarn; were more familiar with the rhythmic thud of the loom, and the hum of the big spinning wheel than with the piano, and did not disdain to be well versed in all household affairs, and yet were by no means deficient in beauty, intelligence or refinement. The extravagance, fast living, expensive habits and mad strife to get rich at all hazards and by any means, that now seems to have taken possession of all classes, was not then manifest. The men of those days never dreamed of getting rich by fat offices, or by the sale of their political influence, or off the public by fraudulent and put up jobs. Politics was not yet a trade, by which shysters and loafers could live. Our early settlers expected to thrive only by patient industry, and not only believed in frugality and hard work, but illustrated and supplemented their theory by actual and daily practice.

It is in my recollection when the city of Columbus had no existence, and its present site was covered with forest, where the deer and the wolf found shelter and safety amid its solitude.

What marvelous changes I have witnessed since I was a school boy, with William and Nat. Merion, Elijah Backus, Chris. Ransburgh and others in the old frame building which stood on the corner of Town and High streets, where now stands the commodious United States Hotel!

In these days of progress and improvement, of commodious and convenient school buildings, with elegant seats and desks, I do not know which would produce the greatest astonishment—to introduce one of our high school boys to the primitive log school house, with the rough slab benches, where their grandfathers received the rudiments of an education, or to show one of the girls the spinning wheel and loom with which their grandmothers manufactured their own becoming garments.

Mr. President, do we not recollect when our beautiful capitol square was full of stumps and used as a pasture by the State officers, and when we boys went in to play ball, that we had to contend for possession with McLean's old horse and Osborn's cow?

Why, sir, it seems almost but yesterday, since your brother William and

myself, with Robert and John Armstrong, Jim Adams, Lucius and Jack Ball, Gus. Brown, John and Keys Barr, Henry Butler, James and Robert Culbertson, Moses Hoge, James Kooker, John Kerr, James Livingston, Tom Lofland, Henry Mills, Milt. McLain, John Overdier, John and James Osborne, Hiram Powers, Grove Parrish, Ben Pike, William Platt, Alf. Russell, William Scott, John and Bob Wherry, and others not now recollected, were careering around like young colts, in and out among the papaw bushes, near by the academy, which stood on Third street, near the present Second Presbyterian Church.

What times we had in summer with prisoners base, four holed cat, hop scotch, round the stakes, and roley boley—and in winter how we gathered the corn off the outlots east of Fourth street, betwixt Town and Rich, and parched it on the old stove from Mary Ann furnace.

With the hot blood coursing through our veins we feared neither wind or weather, and cared neither for King nor Kaiser, had no thought of the morrow, except from its anticipated pleasures, and experienced no sorrows that a night's sound sleep did not dissipate.

Our early days—how often back  
We turn on life's bewildering track,  
To where o'er hill and valley, plays  
The sunlight of our early days.

If all those who gathered with us in the old Columbus Academy could have come together years afterward, in the full flush of manhood, what a tale might have been told of fair promise unfulfilled, of high hopes and youthful ambition that came to naught, of griefs and bitter disappointments, of hearts sore wounded and scarred in the rough conflict of life.

Still, notwithstanding all this, the pathway of those has not always been through storm and shadow, for I am happy to say that, to some at least, there appears to have come a fair share of such happiness and prosperity as seems to be vouchsafed to us poor mortals.

That youthful band that were accustomed to gather in to the instruction of kind, patient, good Mr. Brown, our teacher, were scattered far and wide, and many now "Sleep the sleep that knows no breaking."

As my thoughts so frequently, now, travel back, and dwell with pleasant recollections upon the companions and playmates of the olden time—

"How oft, in the stilly night,  
Ere slumber's chains had bound me,  
Fond memory brings the light  
Of other days around me."

And now, Mr. President, the days of our youth have glided away, and you and I, with so many assembled here today, are numbered with those who were Pioneers fifty years ago.



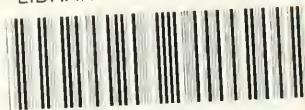




CAYLORD BROS.  
MAKERS  
SYRACUSE, - N. Y.,  
PAT. JAN. 21, 1908



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 573 920 2

